

ABSTRACT

The present invention provides nucleic acid molecules encoding annexin 1 (ANX1) and annexin 4 (ANX4) that belong to a multigene family of calcium-dependent membrane binding proteins. ANX1 and ANX4 are inducible by abscisic acid (ABA), salt and other various stress treatments. The *anx1* and *anx4* mutant plants are characterized by their hypersensitivity to salt and ABA during seed germination and early seedling growth. The invention can be utilized to generate transgenic plants that are tolerant to environmental stress.